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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Acting Chief, Economic Research *RVC*
THRU : Chief, Analysis Division
FROM : Chief, USSR Branch

DATE: 27 October 1958

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SUBJECT: Informal Review of Russian Statistical Volumes Presented [REDACTED]

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1. Three of the four volumes given to us for review concerned information more relevant to the interest of Trade and Finance Branch than to ourselves. Therefore Foreign Trade of the USSR with Socialist Countries; Foreign Trade of the USSR with the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; and Foreign Trade of the USSR with Capitalist Countries were reviewed by S/TF while we reviewed Economic Position of the Capitalist Countries in 1956.

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[REDACTED] of S/TF indicated that they have previously reviewed the first and third of the above volumes for Herbert Block of the State Department for subsequent transmittal [REDACTED]. The comments prepared by S/TF are contained in the attachment to this memorandum. 25X1X6

2. The volume Economic Position of the Capitalist Countries in 1956 was also published by the Scientific-Technical Marketing Institute of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade. Structurally the book is divided into chapters dealing with economic sectors with emphasis on industrial production, agriculture, and foreign trade. Each chapter is subdivided into discussions by country, focused on the US, Western Europe, Canada, and Japan. Most of the volume is a reasonably objective presentation of facts gleaned from UN publications and official national periodicals. The summary and introductory sections are propagandistic in aim and present the usual dogma concerning the malfunctioning of capitalist economic systems. The principal propaganda themes are inflation, disproportions in capitalist economies, internal and external competition for markets, and interpretation of capital investment as an effort to decrease costs and increase profits. No attempt is made to draw East-West comparisons.

ATTACHMENT

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Distribution:

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